

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09733 281215Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4022

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 9733

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, MNUC
SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF NEW DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 232989

1. APPRECIATE VIEWS AND GUIDANCE REFTEL. WE SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCLUSION THAT GOP IS RELUCTANT TO PRESS ON STATUS OF AID AT THIS JUNCTURE AND BELIEVE GOP IS GENERALLY AWARE OF HOLD ON NEW AID AGREEMENTS. WE ALSO KNOW FROM THE CHAT I HAD WITH GENERAL ZIA ON SEPT 27 THAT HE IS AWARE THAT FUNDS FOR LOANS, WHICH CANNOT BE SIGNED IN THIS FISCAL YEAR, ARE BEING HELD OVER UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

2. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS WE THEREFORE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO APPROACH GOP FORMALLY AT THIS TIME. OF COURSE, IF SENIOR OFFICIALS RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH US HERE, OR WITH THE SECRETARY OR THE AID AMINISTRATOR, WE WOULD USE MATERIAL PROPOSED IN REFTEL IN RESPONDING.

3. WHEN WASHINGTON HAS APPROVED ALLOCATION OF PL 480, I WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED HERE FIRST SO THAT I CAN PASS THE WORD TO GENERAL ZIA. AT THAT TIME, I WOULD
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DRAW ON SOME OF THE POINTS IN REFTEL TO REAFFIRM IN BROAD TERMS WHERE WE STAND ON ASSISTANCE MATTERS GENERALLY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM WASHINGTON THAT 200,000 TONS OF PL 480 WHEAT ARE LIKELY TO BE AUTHORIZED AT THIS TIME. I HOPE THAT MY

INSTRUCTIONS WOULD ALSO INCLUDE (A) APPROVAL OF THE
GOP REQUEST FOR 300,000 TONS OF WHEAT UNDER CCC CREDIT
AND (B) AN INDICATION THAT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PL 480 WHEAT LATER IN THE FISCAL
YEAR AS WELL AS VEGETABLE OIL. WHILE THE 200,000 TONS
WILL BE WELCOMED FOR ITS OWN SAKE AND AS AN INDICATION THAT
WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ASSIST PAKISTAN, THIS AMOUNT
FALLS SO FAR SHORT OF THE GOP HOPES FOR WHEAT FROM
US THAT I AM AFRAID THERE WILL BE DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT,
UNLESS I CAN HOLD OUT HOPE THAT MORE IS POSSIBLE LATER IN
YEAR AND ALSO THAT VEGETABLE OIL IS LIKELY TO PROVIDED UNDER PL480.
AS WASHINGTON IS WELL AWARE, PAKISTAN IS GOING THROUGH AN
EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT PERIOD, IN WHICH US
ATTITUDES TOWARD PAKISTAN ARE INCREASINGLY QUESTIONED. IT WOULD
BE MOST HELPFUL TO OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS HERE
TO HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS AT THIS TIME.
HUMMEL

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